10. Large scale employment opportunities are provided by the Railways. Nationalised Banks and Public Sector Enterprises. In these cases also the concerned departments should ensure that special consideration is given to recruitment from minority communities.

11. In many areas recruitment is done through competitive examinations. Often minority groups have been handicapped in taking advantage of the educational system to compete on equal terms in such examinations. To help them to overcome these handicaps, steps should be taken to encourage the starting of coaching classes in minority educational institutions to train persons to compete successfully in these examinations.

12. The acquisition of technical skills by those minorities who are today lagging behind would also help in national development. Arrangements should be made to set up ITIs and polytechnics by Government or private agencies in predominently minority areas to encourage admission in such institutions of adequate number of persons belonging to these communities.

III. *Other Measures*

13. In various development programmes, including the 20-Point Programme, care should be taken to see that minorities secure in a fair and adequate measures the benefits flowing therefrom. In the various committees which are set up to oversee the implementation of such programmes, members of those communities should be actively involved.

14. Apart from the general issues to which I have referred there are various local problems which develop into needless irritants to minorities. For instance encroachment of Wakf properties and on graveyards have led to protests and grievances in some places. Suitable steps should be taken to deal with such problems on an expeditious and satisfactory basis.

15. Problems relating to minorities need to be attended to on a continuing basis so that apprehensions are allayed and genuine grievances redressed. To facilitate this, a special cell will be created in the Ministry of Home Affairs to deal with matters relating to minorities.

Exploitation of turmeric growers in Andhra Pradesh

2801. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that every year the farmers growing turmeric in Andhra Pradesh are exploited by middlemen; and

(b) whether Government propose to set up any suitable processing industry for the commodity in order to redress farmers' problems, and offer remunerative prices to them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) The Ministry of Food Processing Industries have not received any reports in this regard.

(b) This Ministry does not have any proposal to set up processing unit for turmeric in Andhra Pradesh.

Supply of rice and wheat to Maharashtra

2802. SHRIMATI SUDHA VIJAY JOSHI: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Maharashtra is a deficit State in foodgrains production and depends upon supplies from the Central Government;

(b) the actual requirements of foodgrains, rice and wheat of that State during the last year and this year;

(c) whether that State has requested for increased allocations of foodgrains from the Central Pool; and

(d) whether the request has been acceded to?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI D. L. BAITHA): (a) Yes. Sir, Maharashtra is one of the deficit States in production of foodgrains. However, the allocation of foodgrains to various States|UTs from Central Pool under PDS is only supplemental to open market availability and these allocations are made on month to month basis, taking into account the overall availability of stocks in the Central Pool, relative needs of the various States, market availability and other related factors.

(b) Demands for allocation of foodgrains (wheat and rice) under PDS are received on month to month basis from the States|UTs. Maharashtra Government had demanded 23.80 lakh tonnes of foodgrains (wheat and rice) during the year 1988 and 6.55 lakh tonnes during the current year upto March, 1989.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. As a result of a review of allocations of various States|UTs undertaken in the light of the stocks of foodgrains in the Central Pool and better market availability in the wake of a bumper crop khriff paddy and coarse-grains, the rice quota of most States, including Maharashtra, has been reduced by 20 per cent from February, 1989. The rice allocation to Maharashtra has accordingly been reduced from 65,000 tonnes in January to 52.000 tonnes per month from February, 1989. The allocation of wheat to Maharashtra has, however, been raised from 90,000 tonnes in January, 1989 to 94,500 tonnes for February 1989, and further to 1,00000 tonnes for March, 1989.

Increase in the allocation of edible oil to Maharashtra

2803. SHRIMATI SUDHA VIJAY JOSHI: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of edible oil imported during the last year and likely to be imported in this financial year;

(b) the details of allocations made or are being made to different States;

(c) whether Government of Maharashtra have requested for increasing the allocations of imported edible oil to that State on the ground that it is the most urbanised State in the country and the needs of consumers of that State are highest; and

(d) if so, the reaction of the Central Government in the matter?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI D. L. BAITHA): (a) A quantity of about 19.67 lakh tonnes of edible oils was imported during the last financial year 1987-88. During the current financial year 1988-89 a quantity of about 11 lakh tonnes of edible oils was imported till 31-1-1989.

(b) A statement indicating state-wise allocation of imported edible oils during the oil-year 1988-89, month-wise till February, 1989 is enclosed (See Appendix CXLIX, Annexure No. 152].

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir the Maharashtra Government has from time to time asked for an increase in the allocations of imported edible oils on various grounds. In the present situation of increased availability of indigenous oils and the consequent reduction in imports, it is not possible to increase the monthly allocations of imported edible oils to Maharashtra.

Central Stock of Foodgrains

2804. SHRIMATI KANAK MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) the total Central stock of foodgrains at the end of 1980, 1983, 1985 and 1988; and

(b) how this stock has been and is being utilised during this period?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI D. L. BAITHA): (a) The stocks of foodgrains with Food Corporation of India at the end of 1980, 1983, 1985 and 1988 were estimated at 8.62, 12.09, 16.88 and 8.05 million tonnes respectively.

(b) The stocks were and are being utilized for meeting the requirements of the public distribution system, inclusive of